Unseen dangers

- What are some dangers that might be hard to see?
- Prayer: help us see the hard-to-see dangers in our spiritual lives

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Our God is Greater Daniel 10 bib.ly/Dan10

Idea from Daniel 7-9

God will destroy & judge all evil but... trouble may still be great and severe even against God's people for seemingly far too long

Reasons:

- Sins of God's people
- An unexpected source (for 'modern' people)

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Daniel 10

1-3: Why was Daniel mourning?

4-9: \rightarrow Look at the context...

10-14:

15-11:1:

Anticipation then Disappointment

Jeremiah's warning: 70-year exile

Daniel was among the first to be exiled

Then the temple was destroyed

70 years later: King Cyrus sent Jewish people

back to Jerusalem to rebuild!

They went back and started: Isaiah 40:1-5 begins

Then there was trouble ...a lot of trouble and the rebuilding stopped!!

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Daniel 10

1-3: Context: After rebuilding started...and stopped

4-9: • "At that time, I, Daniel mourned..."

10-14: • It seems, he fasted through Passover

A celebration of God's deliverance

At the time when God wasn't delivering!

15-11:1:

Daniel 10

- 1-3: Context: After rebuilding started...and stopped
- 4-9: Daniel was overwhelmed by messenger's glory

10-14:

15-11:1:

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- 10-14: Message: encouragement, yet difficulties
 - The overwhelmingly great messenger was effectively resisted by an evil spirit (prince)

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"How can someone like me, your servant, speak with someone like you, my lord? Now I have no strength, and there is no breath in me." Daniel 10:17 Christian Standard Version

Daniel 10

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- 4-9: Daniel was overwhelmed by messenger's glory
- 10-14: Message: encouragement, yet difficulties
 - The overwhelmingly great messenger was effectively resisted by an evil spirit (prince)
- 15-11:1: Daniel was strengthened to receive and to accept the message
 - God's infallible plans involved the determined collaboration of angels who had to fight against evil spirits (princes)

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The Big Idea

There is an invisible yet powerful spiritual realm of good and evil
where great conflict is real
yet God will eventually win the victory for those who put their hope in God

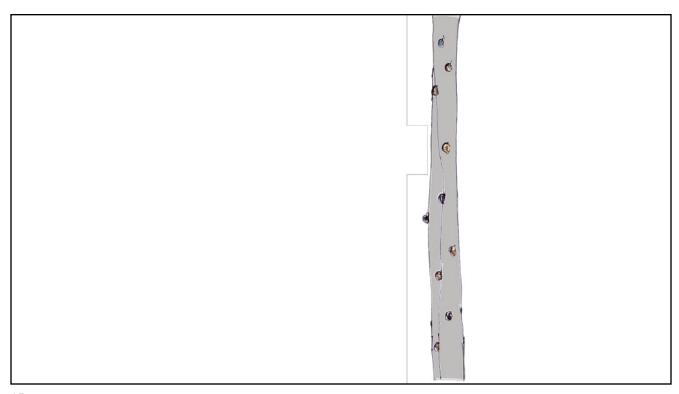
"10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

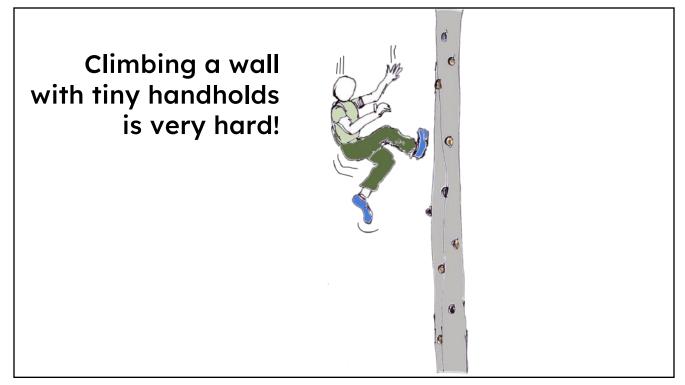
Ephesians 6:10-12

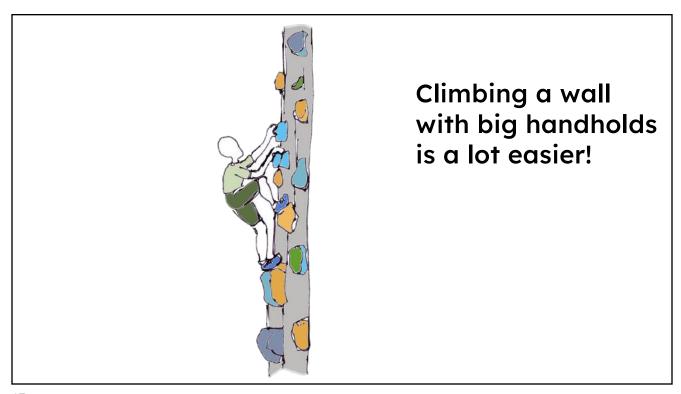
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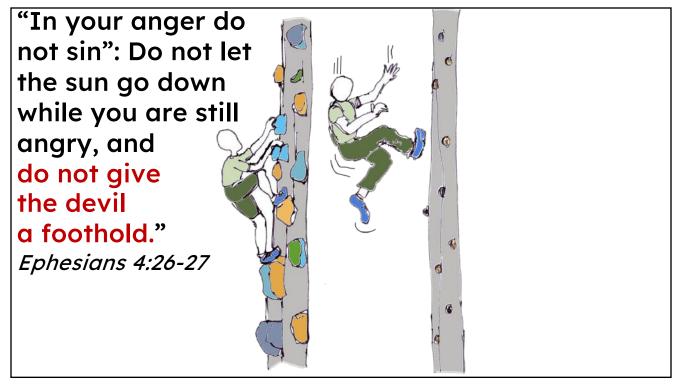
"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:13-18









Some of the surprising ways we make the devil's job easier:

hold on to anger, fail to forgive, be greedy, lie

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Some of the surprising ways we make the devil's job easier:

hold on to anger, fail to forgive, be greedy, lie

•"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." *Ephesians 4:26-27*

Some of the surprising ways we make the devil's job easier:

hold on to anger, fail to forgive, be greedy, lie

• "Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgive—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes." 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

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Some of the surprising ways we make the devil's job easier:

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• "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction." 1 Timothy 6:9

Some of the surprising ways we make the devil's job easier:

hold on to anger, fail to forgive, be greedy, lie

•"When [the devil] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44

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- The problem is:
 - we are weak
 - and we keep failing

The Solution: Jesus overpowers the devil

Jesus drove a demon out from a man When questioned about His power over Satan, He said:

"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder." Luke 11:21-22

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There is an invisible yet powerful spiritual realm of good and evil
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yet God will eventually win the victory for those who put their hope in God
Jesus Christ

Application

Be wise and strong

- Spiritual evil is real and powerful
 - A big difference between being courageous and foolish
- Trust in Jesus who is "someone stronger"
 - Don't live in fear/"be strong and courageous"
 - •"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome [the evil spirits], because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 4:4

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Application

Be wise and strong

Put on God's spiritual armor

- Don't give the enemy a foothold!
- belt of Truth
- breastplate of Righteousness
- boots of the Gospel of peace
- shield of Faith
- helmet of Salvation
- sword of God's word: the Bible
- always Pray in the Spirit

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- Be wise and strong
- > Hope in Christ by living in God's spiritual armor